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ABSTRACT

The project was concerned with developing three up-to-date, accurate bibliographies on Asia and Africa as resource guides and book selection tools for undergraduate libraries. Existing bibliographies and information on newer books favorably received in journals were entered on a computer system. A preliminary, unedited, unselected bibliography was produced for each area and sent to librarians and scholars previously selected as editors who then graded the books as to their degree of importance for undergraduate libraries, eliminating approximately half of the titles. A graded draft was produced and circulated to a panel of college librarians and area specialists who added their suggestions, comments, and criticisms. The principal result of the project is the three bibliographies arranged by country, discipline, and alphabetically. In addition, the Foreign Area Materials Center developed a capability for automated handling of information. It is recommended that the bibliographies be periodically revised and updated. A related document is ED 056 937. (SJM)

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FINAL REPORT

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December 1971

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
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December 1971

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Office of Education
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION. 2

METHODS 2

RESULTS 4

CONCLUSIONS 5

RECOMMENDATIONS 6

SUMMARY 8

APPENDIX A. 9

Introduction

The project has been concerned with strengthening undergraduate library resources on areas of the world long neglected by American colleges and universities. No language and area study program can be effective without adequate library resources for student reading and faculty research. Undergraduate library collections on such neglected areas are generally quite inadequate. Among the unmet needs which have led to this inadequacy are:

1) The lack of training of college librarians about these areas of the world;

2) The lack of up-to-date, accurate selection tools.

The project concentrated on the second need by producing three selected bibliographies graded as to essentiality for undergraduate library collections and keyed to annotations in other existing bibliographies and reviews in selected scholarly and library journals. Reprints and out-of-print titles were also indicated to assist libraries in their acquisitions. It is also hoped that a by-product of the project will be the eventual reprinting of all out-of-print titles.

A second aspect of the project has been a survey of bibliographies and reference works on Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Russia and East Europe, leading to the preparation and publication of a selected, critically annotated guide to reference works for undergraduate libraries.

In order to facilitate manipulation of the data and correcting and up-dating, the material was entered on a computer-time sharing system. A program was written to sort entries in the bibliographies by country and discipline and alphabetically.

Methods

For the three bibliographies entries in existing bibliographies such as A Select Bibliography: Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America (and supplements for 1961-1967), compiled by the American Universities Field Staff; the series of bibliographies on China, Japan, and Korea, and India compiled by the Committee on Oriental Studies at the University of Arizona, Helen Conover's Africa, South of the Sahara: A Selected, Annotated List of Writings, as well as newer books favorably reviewed in journals such as Choice and the Journal of Asian Studies were entered into the computer system. A preliminary, unedited, unselected bibliography was produced for each area. These preliminary bibliographies were then sent to scholars or librarians previously selected as editors. The editors were: Donald Gillin, Vassar College (East Asia); Louis A. Jacob, University of Pennsylvania (South Asia); and Peter Duignan, Hoover Institution (Africa south of the Sahara).

These individuals graded the books as to their degree of importance for undergraduate collections and eliminated titles which were either too specialized or had been superceded by newer works. After eliminating roughly half of the titles in the preliminary bibliographies, the grading of the remaining titles was as follows:

A. 10% of the books. Books that should be in all college libraries whether or not any course work is offered.

B. 20% of the books. Books that a college library should have if a few courses or parts of courses devoted to the area are offered.

C. 20% of the books. Books that a library should have to support an undergraduate area studies program.

The percentages were, of course, approximations and were not followed precisely.

After the books had been graded by the area editor, the project staff added the grading to the books on the preliminary bibliographies and eliminated those which had not been graded. A graded draft was then produced and circulated to a panel of college librarians and other consultants, including academic specialists on the areas covered by the bibliographies. (A list of consultants appears in Appendix A). The graded drafts were then revised in light of comments and criticisms received.

At the same time as the graded drafts were circulated, the project staff keyed the entries to reviews in selected journals and checked each title against the National Union Catalog or the card catalogue of the New York Public Library or some other major research library to insure accuracy. The availability of each title, e.g., in print, out-of-print, in microform, was checked at the same time.

After investigating various methods of producing machine-readable data, the project staff decided to use an ATS time-sharing system which had the advantage of allowing upper and lower case output and because by entering the material directly in disc made it relatively easy to edit and add information. At the time the project was initiated in 1966, the project staff could not find any existing program package that would provide the necessary types of computer sorts and had a program especially written for the project. The program has the

capability of sorting by geographical area of the world, country, discipline, and alphabetically by the main author. The program was originally written in Honeywell 200 Easy Coder, but had to be rewritten in COBOL later to accommodate a change from the IBM 1460 to the IBM 360.

The staff of the Earlham College Library was asked to undertake the survey of reference works and, with the assistance of specialists on various geographical areas, prepared the selected and annotated guide to reference works on Asia, Africa, Latin America, and East Europe.

A commercial publisher, Bro-Dart, Inc., expressed interest in the project and agreed to publish the bibliographies and the guide to reference works. The publisher also underwrote the costs of photo-composition in order to make the size of the finished product more manageable.

Results

The principal result of the project is publication of East Asia: A Bibliography for Undergraduate Libraries; South Asia: A Bibliography for Undergraduate Libraries; Africa South of the Sahara: A Bibliography for Undergraduate Libraries; and Guide to Reference Sources on Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and Russia and East Europe: Selected and Annotated. The bibliography on East Asia contains 2,114 entries; South Asia, 1,610, and Africa south of the Sahara, 1,328. The Guide to Reference Sources contains 341 titles and references to some 300 other works in the text of the annotations.

The three bibliographies are arranged by country and subject and contain an author index. Entries are graded as to essentiality for undergraduate collections and keyed to annotations in other bibliographies and reviews in selected scholarly and library journals. The availability of titles is also indicated.

In the process of compiling and checking the bibliographies, the project staff found that existing bibliographic tools such as Japan and Korea: A Critical Bibliography, published by the University of Arizona Press, contained numerous inaccuracies such as misspelling of author's names, wrong titles, incorrect publication information and the like. In some instances, these errors were called to the attention of the publisher or compiler without any outstanding success.

The project also found that basic reference works such as The Book Review Digest do not index reviews from any area studies journals except Pacific Affairs, a fact which necessitated looking for reviews in each issue of the relevant journal. Because reviews from area study journals are not included, it is the impression of the project staff that fewer books on area studies are included in the Digest; it also seems that fewer books on Asia and Africa are included because they are reviewed less frequently in disciplinary journals. The Manager of the project has written to the publisher of The Book Review Digest and suggested some area journals which might be included, but since the subscribers to the Digest vote on which new journals should be indexed, it seems unlikely that this policy will change.

In a larger sense, completion of these bibliographies, and the others in the same series dealing with other areas of Asia and Africa, constitutes a further refinement, if not a new departure, in meeting the bibliographical needs of these fields of study in undergraduate education as well as the requirements of college libraries. Simultaneously, the Foreign Area Materials Center has developed an important capability in the field of automated handling of information which will enable the Center to apply new technologies of information-handling to educational needs related to undergraduate study of the Third World in other ways in the future. And the mere inclusion of titles in the bibliography, particularly in the more essential categories, has been an important stimulus in keeping them in print or getting them back into print, thus assuring their availability to college libraries interested in acquiring them.

Notes on availability, coupled with computerization, grading as to significance, and keying to critical reviews in the learned journals, reflect a distinctive new approach to bibliographical needs of undergraduate institutions in Asian and African studies. To the degree that college librarians, faculty members, and students find this approach useful, it may inspire future efforts in these fields of academic interest as well as others.

Conclusions

Since they were published, a total of 1,266 copies of the three bibliographies have been sold: East Asia, 677; South Asia, 388; and Africa, which was only published in February, 1971, 201. The guide to reference sources has just been published and figures are not yet available. A favorable critical review of the South Asia bibliography appeared in the August, 1971, Journal of Asian Studies and one on the

East Asia bibliography in American Reference Books Annual 1971. As far as the project staff is aware, these are the only reviews to have appeared, a fact which underscores the lack of attention devoted to guidance on book selection on these areas of the world.

The bibliographies and guide to reference sources which are also intended to serve as book selection tools, are, it should be emphasized, only one part of a larger "systems problem" in strengthening undergraduate library resources in Asian and African studies. Clearly interest in these academic areas, bibliographical knowledge of library needs and how to meet them on the part of college librarians is another important dimension to the problem. Both by involvement of individual college librarians in the construction of these bibliographies and by the participation of the Project Manager and Project Director in organization of and recruitment for the special summer session program in non-Western studies for college librarians at Columbia University, as well as the Project Manager's active role in the College Libraries Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries "pre-conferences" on non-Western areas and their implications for college librarians, while not in a formal sense a part of the project, were nonetheless very much related to it and certainly have contributed toward meeting the larger objectives toward which the present project was also directed.

Lack of such opportunities, both in formal programs of graduate training of college librarians and in professionally oriented in-service programs, has been one of the serious constraints on strengthening undergraduate library resources in foreign area studies. Other constraints include budgetary limitations, faculty priorities, which often imply giving greater emphasis to more traditional and better represented areas of the curriculum than non-Western European studies, problems of acquisition of materials, particularly those published overseas, and general circumstances of availability with respect to materials in print and out-of-print. The major point to keep in mind in thinking about the varied dimensions of the problem of strengthening library resources in Asian and African studies is that, while better bibliographies geared to the needs of college libraries do make an important contribution, they alone will not solve the problem.

Recommendations

The first and most obvious recommendation is that, since new materials are continually being published, these bibliographies be revised and updated from time to time. An interval of two to three

years would seem to be a sensible one, with the possibility of more frequent supplements. The fact that the bibliographies compiled under the project have been entered on a text retrieval computer program will greatly facilitate their revision.

Even with a continuing program of revision of these bibliographies, it is vitally important that academic journals and particularly those directed toward the needs of college libraries or widely read by college librarians, of which Choice is the most notable, continue to review (and to assess not only the scholarship but also the potential relevance to undergraduate teaching) of new scholarly works in Asian and African studies. Choice should be encouraged to continue to expand its coverage of books published abroad on these areas of the world, perhaps through more frequent special review articles.

A continuing attempt needs to be made to assure ready availability of books most suitable for undergraduate library use. This implies further effort to make known to those who reprint for the college library market needs in this field, as well as to explore different ways of making books published abroad more easily available to college libraries in the United States. In both of these areas, the Foreign Area Materials Center has had some experience and works closely with agencies concerned with these matters but more certainly needs to be done.

As compared to the situation in 1966 when this project was initiated, a number of computer programs have been developed to handle bibliographic information. Persons developing similar projects in the future would be well advised to explore what is available before undertaking the costly and time-consuming production of new computer programs. Because of its potentially wide use in libraries, the project staff would recommend that the Library of Congress MARC (Machine Readable Catalog) system be seriously considered.

Finally, and most importantly, experience with this project makes it clear that we have only begun to meet the needs of information retrieval and control as they pertain to undergraduate studies of Asian and African societies and traditions. Materials other than books, such as periodical articles and government documents are also vitally important for undergraduate study of these areas of the world. The "publications explosion," furthermore, introduces yet another complexity. Experimentation, thus far, confined to large universities with programs of advanced training and research, in programs of selective dissemination of information about new publications needs to be initiated in an effort to meet the needs of undergraduate students, faculty members, and librarians.

Summary

The project has been concerned with improving the teaching about Asian and African societies and traditions at the undergraduate level through strengthened library resources. Three bibliographies and a reference guide, designed as selective buying guides for colleges libraries, were compiled--East Asia: A Bibliography for Undergraduate Libraries; South Asia: A Bibliography for Undergraduate Libraries; Africa South of the Sahara: A Bibliography for Undergraduate Libraries; and Guide to Reference Sources on Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and Russia and East Europe: Selected and Annotated. Entries in the bibliographies were keyed to annotations in existing bibliographies and reviews in selected scholarly and library journals. Information on the availability of each title was also included--e.g., in print, out-of-print, in microform. The bibliographies and reference guide were produced by computer in order to facilitate editing, indexing, and up-dating and to provide the capability for producing special cross-area lists on request.

APPENDIX A

Consultants for Africa Bibliography

Nancy Devine, Mt. Holyoke College
Dorothy Drake, Scripps College
Peter Duignan, Hoover Institution
Anne C. Edmonds, Mt. Holyoke College
Evan Ira Farber, Earlham College
Lewis Gann, Hoover Institution
Martin Lowenkopf, Hoover Institution
Alan R. Taylor, Indiana University

Consultants for East Asia Bibliography

Fabion Bowers, New York City
Robert Brower, University of Michigan
Ardath Burks, Rutgers University
Chu-yuan Cheng, University of Michigan
Wm. Theodore De Bary, Columbia University
Nancy Devine, Mt. Holyoke College
Ronald P. Dore, University of London
Dorothy Drake, Scripps College
Anne C. Edmonds, Mt. Holyoke College
Donald Gillin, Vassar College
Evan Ira Farber, Earlham College
C. T. Hu, Teachers College, Columbia University
C. T. Li, University of Kansas
William Lockwood, Princeton University
Robert Marsh, Brown University
Shannon McCune, American Geographical Society
Fred G. Notehelfer, Princeton University
Herbert Passin, Teachers College, Columbia University
Marleigh Ryan, Columbia University
William Schultz, University of Arizona
Harold P. Stern, Freer Gallery of Art

Consultants for Guide to Reference Sources

Leo Chang, Earlham College
Nancy Goodwell Garman, formerly Northwestern University
Donald Clay Johnson, Northern Arizona University
James R. Kennedy, Jr., Earlham College
Kiki Skagen, formerly University of California, Berkeley

APPENDIX A (continued)

Consultants for South Asia Bibliography

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John E. Brush, Rutgers University
Nancy Devine, Mt. Holyoke College
Joseph Di Bona, Duke University
Edward C. Dimock, University of Chicago
Dorothy Drake, Scripps College
Anne C. Edmonds, Mt. Holyoke College
Joseph W. Elder, University of Wisconsin
Evan Ira Farber, Earlham College
Brijen K. Gupta, Brooklyn College
Stephen N. Hay, University of California, Santa Barbara
Alan Heston, University of Pennsylvania
Louis A. Jacob, University of Pennsylvania
Ward Morehouse, University of the State of New York
Karl H. Potter, University of Minnesota
Leo A. Rose, University of California, Berkeley
James W. Spain, Washington, D.C.
John W. Spellman, University of Windsor
Walter M. Spink, University of Michigan
Wayne Wilcox, Columbia University
Howard Wriggins, Columbia University
Theodore P. Wright, Jr., State University of New York, Albany